



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner

September 13, 2006

Representative David P. Currier, Chairman
Resources, Recreation, and Development
Room 305
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Currier:

In March 2006, the Department received a nomination for the inclusion of the Ammonoosuc River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). As proposed by the nominating organization (Ammonoosuc River Corridor Advisory Committee and Town of Littleton) designation would begin from the White Mountain National Forest boundary near Lower Falls in Carroll to its confluence with the Connecticut River in Haverhill. My review of the nomination considered the important resources outlined in the nomination, public comments received by the Department, the recommendations of the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) and the Rivers Coordinator. Based on this review and considering the factors listed in RSA 483:6, IV I have determined that designation of the Ammonoosuc River would be consistent with the purposes of RSA 483, and I am strongly recommending its inclusion into the RMPP.

Resource Evaluation

The Ammonoosuc River received 486 points out of a maximum of 595 under the point system evaluation for river-related resources outlined in Env-Wq 1800 (Administrative Rules for the Rivers Management and Protection Program). In all five categories - natural resources, managed resources, cultural resources, recreational resources, and other resources - the Ammonoosuc River was awarded a majority of the points available.

Public Comments

In February of this year, the nominating organization held five (5) public meetings to gauge support for the nomination. In addition, the RMAC and the Department held a public informational meeting and a formal public hearing in June to gain further public input on the designation of the Ammonoosuc River. To date, the Department has received twenty-seven (27) letters of support and petitions for the nomination including one from each community's Board of Selectman. Throughout the process all public testimony and letters have supported the nomination.

Recommendations by the RMAC and the Rivers Coordinator


The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) reviewed the nomination, conducted a site visit, and held a public hearing. The RMAC was very impressed with the level of local support for the nomination and unanimously recommended that the Ammonoosuc River be designated into the RMPP.

The Rivers Coordinator reviewed nomination materials, listened to testimony at the public hearing, received correspondence related to the nomination, and visited the river. Based on this information, the Rivers Coordinator recommended that the nomination of the Ammonoosuc River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program be forwarded to the General Court for consideration in the 2007 session. As the individual with primary responsibility for evaluating rivers nominations, the Rivers Coordinator recommends moving the nomination forward at this time, an important step in recognizing the importance of the Ammonoosuc River as a significant statewide resource.

Enclosed please find a copy of the Ammonoosuc River Nomination and a map showing the boundaries of the proposed designation. Also enclosed is a draft bill that outlines the recommended classifications for the designation of the Ammonoosuc River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Department is currently preparing a Report to the General Court specifying in greater detail the values and characteristics that qualify the Ammonoosuc River for designation. The report will be completed early next year.

The Ammonoosuc River Nomination meets the criteria for designation and is a worthy addition to the Rivers Management and Protection Program. I hereby forward the nomination to the General Court for review and legislative approval according to RSA 483:7.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner

Enclosures
MPN/smc

CC: Alice Chamberlin, Special Assistant for Policy, Governor's Office
Councilor Raymond S. Burton
Senator John T. Gallus
Senator Carl R. Johnson
Representative Robert J. Giuda
Representative Paul C. Ingbreton
Representative Edmond D. Gionet
Representative Gregory M. Sorg
Representative Stephanie Eaton
Representative John L. Ward
Representative Martha S. McLeod
Representative Scott A. Merrick
Representative William J. Remick
Representative Herbert D. Richardson
Representative John E. Tholl, Jr.
Boards of Selectmen Haverhill, Landaff, Lisbon, Bath, Littleton, Bethlehem, and Carroll
Mike Walls, Assistant Commissioner, DES (via electronic mail)
Harry Stewart, Director, Water Division, DES (via electronic mail)
Paul Currier, Administrator, Watershed Management Bureau, DES (via electronic mail)
Ray Lobdell, Ammonoosuc River Corridor Advisory Committee and Town of Littleton (via electronic mail)
RMAC Members (via electronic mail)
LRMAC Chairs (via electronic mail)

HB ____ - AS INTRODUCED

2007 SESSION

HOUSE BILL

HB ____

AN ACT

designating segments of the Ammonoosuc River as protected under the rivers management and protection program

SPONSORS:

COMMITTEE: Resources, Recreation and Development

ANALYSIS

This bill designates segments of the Ammonoosuc River for protection under the New Hampshire rivers management and protection program.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB ____ - AS INTRODUCED

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand

AN ACT designating segments of the Ammonoosuc River into the rivers management and protection program.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Paragraph; Ammonoosuc River Designated for Protection. Amend RSA 483:15 by
2 inserting after paragraph XIV the following new paragraph:

3 XV. Ammonoosuc River:

4 (a) As a rural river from the White Mountain National Forest boundary near Lower Falls
5 in Carroll to the Bethlehem-Littleton town line.

6 (b) As a community river from the Bethlehem-Littleton town line to the Littleton-Lisbon
7 town line.

8 (c) As a rural-community river from the Littleton-Lisbon town line to the confluence
9 with Pearl Lake Brook in Lisbon.

10 (d) As a community river from confluence with the Pearl Lake Brook in Lisbon to the
11 Lisbon-Landaff-Bath town line.

12 (e) As a rural-community river from the Lisbon-Landaff-Bath town line to a point 0.9
13 miles above the covered bridge in Bath.

14 (f) As a community river from the point 0.9 miles above the covered bridge in Bath to
15 the confluence with Simonds Brook in Bath.

16 (g) As a rural-community river from the confluence with Simonds Brook in Bath to the
17 confluence with Burton Brook in Bath.

18 (h) As a community river from the confluence with Burton Brook in Bath to the
19 confluence with the Connecticut River in Haverhill.

20 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



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Senator Carl P. Johnson, Chairman
Environment and Wildlife Committee
Room 103
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Senator Johnson:

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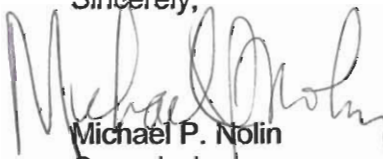
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